

The *On Time* Spring Poll asked 50 of the world's top watch experts to select their favourite Geneva Seal watch. Many were drawn to the hallowed halls of horology, but heads were also turned by recent watchmaking milestones—a reminder that the Poinçon is not only a mark of prestige and provenance, but of style, sensitivity and ambition

I. ARIEL ADAMS



**FOUNDER & EDITOR,
A BLOG TO WATCH**

One particular product that comes to mind is the only watch I know that has the Geneva Seal on the dial (as opposed to only on the movement). The rare **Ateliers de Monaco** Seal of Geneva watches are beautiful and timeless, but also celebrate the fact that anyone with enough passion and dedication can be rewarded with the highest marks of prestige.

2. CARLOS ALONSO



**DIRECTOR, TIEMPO
DE RELOJES**

Patek Philippe's 5070 with Cal. 27-70 based on the Nouvelle Lemania movement was manufactured with the Seal for the last time in 2009. That year was a turning point; the house replaced the Seal with its own and the first manually wound chronograph movement developed in-house (Cal. CH 29-535 PS) finished the hegemony of the Nouvelle Lemania movement.



**"Chopard's
L.U.C
Flying
T Twin
oozes
style."**

**GEORGE
BAMFORD**

3. GEORGE BAMFORD



**FOUNDER, BAMFORD
WATCH DEPARTMENT**

The L.U.C Flying T Twin is Chopard's latest flying tourbillon. It oozes style. The way the wonderful black and grey dial is built to include the see-through tourbillon movement combined with the concentric circles strikes the perfect balance. The slim design and rose gold case with accents on the dial and hands are stunning.

4. CARA BARRETT



**EDITOR & SOCIAL MEDIA
& SPECIAL PROJECTS
MANAGER, HODINKEE**

The Geneva Seal is a prestigious honour that should not be overlooked in terms of quality. That said, I love a juxtaposition, which is why I would pick the **Vacheron Constantin Overseas Ultra-Thin** in white gold. There is something so cool about a luxury sports watch with a workhorse movement (Cal. 1120), completed with the finest of finishing.

5. ISABELLE CERBONESCHI



**FOUNDER,
ALL-I-C MAGAZINE**

My choice is the L.U.C Full Strike, Chopard's first minute repeater. The pinnacle of its originality lies in its gongs and watch glass, machined together from a single sapphire block. When striking the hours, quarters and minutes, this watch, which bears the Geneva hallmark, has an extraordinary sound. A watch in a class of its own.



**"The Patek
Philippe
3712A is an
iconic
'blue-dial'
model."**

**SHARON
CHAN**

6. CARSON CHAN



**COLLECTOR & CHIEF
ADVISOR, F.H.H.**

My favourite Geneva Seal piece is the **Chopard L.U.C XPS 1860 Officer Ref. 161242-1001**. The watch is an excellent blend of classic styling and functionality. It also meets another internationally recognised standard—the Contrôle Officiel Suisse des Chronomètres—which certifies its accuracy.

7. SHARON CHAN



**DIRECTOR OF WATCHES,
ASIA, BONHAMS**

The Patek Philippe 3712A is one of my favourite watches with a Geneva Seal movement. An iconic "blue-dial" model with superior movement, it has a design that reminds us of the master watchmaker Gérald Genta. From 2005 onwards, there's been a growing market demand for the watch worldwide, which is reflected in the price.

ABLOGWATCH (ADAMS); KAT IRLIN (BARRETT); BONHAMS (SHARON CHAN).

8. AUSTEN CHU



**FOUNDER & CEO,
WRISTCHECK**

One of my favourite watches that bears the Geneva Seal is the vintage **Roger Dubuis H40 Monopusher Chronograph** in white gold. The watch was produced in c. 2000, and comes with a gorgeous salmon guilloché dial, which is perfectly complemented by the applied Breguet numerals and feuille hands.

9. ROB CORDER



**CO-FOUNDER,
WATCHPRO; V.F. ON
TIME CONTRIBUTOR**

Chopard's first flying tourbillon movement was unveiled in 2019 inside the **L.U.C Flying T Twin** dress watch, which is both chronometer-rated by COSC and stamped with the Poinçon. The watch's rose gold case and 22kt micro-rotor are Fairmined-certified so you can be assured it is precise, authentically Genevois and ethical.

10. JONATHAN DARRACOTT



**GLOBAL HEAD OF
WATCHES, BONHAMS**

The bastion of Geneva Seals was Patek Philippe and my favourite model is the **A-Magnetic Ref. 3417** of the 1960s. It encapsulates everything Patek Philippe and the Canton of Geneva could offer at a time before the Seal was widely recognised as a mark of excellence.



**"In my
eyes, the
12-600 AT
is Patek's
finest
movement,
inside its
best case."**

**JAMES
DOWLING**



**"The
Sympathie
case
houses an
exquisitely
modified
Lemania
movement."**

**SIMON
DE BURTON**

II. SIMON DE BURTON



**JOURNALIST & AUTHOR;
V.F. ON TIME CONTRIBUTOR**

Early Roger Dubuis watches are exceptional. The maker was one of very few in the early 1990s to achieve the standards required for the Geneva Seal. The **Sympathie Retrograde Perpetual Calendar** (c. 1995) has an unusually shaped "Sympathie" case that houses an exquisitely modified Lemania movement with a retrograde perpetual calendar displaying the day, the date, the month and even the week. Less than a decade ago, these watches were not widely recognised as being collectable. That has now changed.

12. ZHIXIANG DING



**PUBLISHER & EDITOR,
CHRONOS CHINA**

To celebrate its 260th anniversary, **Vacheron Constantin** released the **Harmony Monopusher Chronograph Ref. 5300S**, which houses the brand's manual-winding Cal. 3300, developed in-house and marked with the Geneva Seal and pulsometer scale on the dial. I bought it at first sight.

13. ELIZABETH DOERR



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
QUILLANDPAD.COM**

Vacheron Constantin's Historiques watches are among the most beautiful yet difficult for the brand's designers to get right, as they need to apply just the right amount of

modernity to a historical favourite. A modern-day "driver's watch" with impeccable Genevan pedigree, I love the "American" touch and perfect sizing of the **Historiques American 1921 Small Ref. 1100S/000R-B430**, an asymmetrical beauty.

14. JAMES DOWLING



**JOURNALIST & AUTHOR;
V.F. ON TIME CONTRIBUTOR**

In 1953, **Patek Philippe** released its first automatic movement, the 12-600 AT. Technically and visually stunning, it took a belt and braces approach to accuracy, utilising both the Gyromax balance and a micrometer regulator. The winding weight, which would never be seen by the client, was beautifully guilloché. And this amazing movement was launched in one of Patek's greatest ever watches—the **2526**, with its stunning cream enamel dial and oversized (for its time) 36mm case. In my eyes, this is Patek Philippe's finest ever movement, inside its best ever case, with the most sumptuous dial it ever produced.

15. DAVID DUGGAN



**OWNER, DAVID
DUGGAN WATCHES**

My favourite Geneva Seal watch is the **Patek Philippe Ref. 3448J**. It was the very first Patek I ever saw. So simple-looking for such a complicated watch. It even allowed for February 29. If you wore the watch every day, you never had to adjust it. Never.

16. ALEXANDER FRIEDMAN



**CO-FOUNDER,
WATCHONISTA**

The **Vacheron Constantin Historiques Cornes de Vache 1955** in steel is for sure one of the most attractive vintage-inspired chronographs out there. Look at those lugs! Elegant, sportive, more accessible in steel, well-proportioned and with an impeccable Poinçon de Genève finishing, this is definitely my ultimate choice. I want!

“The Patrimony Automatic is a very nice example of inspiration from a model of the 1950s.”

ERIC GIROUD



17. PATRICK GETREIDE

ENTREPRENEUR
& WATCH COLLECTOR

I would like to highlight Patek Philippe's **Platinum Chronometer Tourbillon n°198,211**, of which I am the proud, and privileged, owner. This pocket watch—a one-of-a-kind platinum open face chronometer with one-minute tourbillon regulator—was produced in 1935 for Henry Graves Jr. Beyond the fact that it is priceless, it was entered in the Geneva Observatory Timing Contest and won the First Prize—at the time a precision world record, which this masterpiece retained for several years. It is in perfect condition at 82 years old.

18. ALEX GHOTBI

HEAD OF CONTINENTAL
EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST,
PHILLIPS

My favourite watch bearing the Geneva Seal caught my attention in the late 1990s and has remained in my head and heart ever since: the **Roger Dubuis Sympathie Chronograph**. With its distinctive case and crystal of the same shape, it inspired my interest in independent watchmaking and unusual case designs.

19. ERIC GIROUD

OWNER & DESIGNER,
THROUGH THE
LOOKING GLASS

My choice is the **Vacheron Constantin Patrimony 40mm Automatic Ref.**



85180/000R-9248 in pink gold. The design of this watch is magnificent and so contemporary. A very nice example of inspiration from a model of the 1950s redesigned and, above all, rethought in a contemporary way—without forgetting its very beautiful automatic movement.

20. JOHN GOLDBERGER

WATCH COLLECTOR
& AUTHOR

During my time publishing books on watches, I have checked and photographed many movements. Ten years ago, I was very surprised to find a double Geneva Seal punched onto the movement of a stainless steel **Patek Philippe** chronograph with perpetual calendar and moon phases, **Ref. 1518**, manufactured in 1943. It is very hard to find a Geneva Seal in a complicated movement for a Patek Philippe wristwatch, especially housed in a stainless steel case. A watch bearing the Poinçon de Genève is not only an instrument for measuring time, it is a work of art!

21. JAMES GURNEY

HEAD OF WATCHES,
LYMITED

The Poinçon de Genève is a mark of ambition as much as quality, and for that reason my choice is the **Louis Vuitton Tourbillon Volant**. This watch is as simple and stripped-back as a tourbillon can be and it wears its Poinçon with pride. It is matched to a case that is similarly both refined and complex.



“Louis Vuitton's Tourbillon Volant wears its Poinçon with pride.”

JAMES GURNEY

22. KRISTIAN HAAGEN

WATCH SPECIALIST
& WRITER

My favourite Poinçon de Genève watch is the **Patek Philippe Nautilus Chronograph Ref. 5980** with blue dial, introduced in 2006 when Nautilus celebrated its 40th anniversary. However, in 2009, Patek created its own quality seal, making this early version far more desirable.

23. ADRIAN HAILWOOD

WATCH CONSULTANT
& HEAD OF WATCHES
AT WATCH-
COLLECTING.COM

The tourbillon was initially conceived to improve accuracy and stability, and yet so few of them are ever COSC certified. **Chopard's L.U.C Flying T Twin, Cal. 96.24-L** not only passes that test, but its quality of finish also receives the Geneva Seal, and the movement is cased in certified Fairmined gold.

24. ANDREW HILDRETH

WATCH EDITOR, I-M
INTELLIGENT MAGAZINE

The **Calatrava Ref. 565** was Patek Philippe's first foray into the active lifestyle watch with an elegant and legible dial. In steel, it had a water-resistant increased case size with an oversized screw-in crown. The dials came in several forms, from Breguet numerals to baton markers, all with luminous hands.

25. SAM HINES

SENIOR DIRECTOR
& WORLDWIDE HEAD OF
WATCHES, SOTHEBY'S

My favourite watch is the **Patek Philippe Ref. 2458** made especially for J.B. Champion. The large movement is stamped twice with the Geneva Seal. Due to the oversized movement, guillaume balance, platinum case and the dial configuration, no other time-only watch can compare. It is known simply as “The Champion”.



26. HOROLOGY ANCIENNE

A COLLECTOR
OF WATCHES

Our favourite Poinçon de Genève watch is the **Patek Philippe Ref. 2526**. Considering the Geneva Seal's attention to the movement, the Cal. 12-600AT is the centrepiece here. Patek's first automatic calibre certainly made its presence felt with outstanding accuracy and finishing that has served as an inspiration until the present day.

27. HEEKYUNG JUNG

PUBLISHER & JOURNALIST;
TRAINER, F.H.H.

My favourite is the **Vacheron Constantin Harmony Split-Seconds Chronograph Ultra-Thin** in platinum. The symmetrical vintage dial with tachymeter scale is beautiful, but above all, the movement is fantastic; we can see the two column wheels and the lateral clutch in action.

28. KEN KESSLER

EDITOR-AT-LARGE,
REVOLUTION
MAGAZINE

Like the Girard-Perregaux Laureato, **Vacheron Constantin's Overseas** is overshadowed by the Royal Oak and the Nautilus. I admire all four, but there's something almost secretive about the Overseas. It's the most understated, certainly the least common, and it oozes as much pedigree as any thanks to the Poinçon de Genève.

29. NAZANIN LANKARANI

JOURNALIST & AUTHOR;
V.F. ON TIME CONTRIBUTOR

The **Tambour Moon Flying Tourbillon** by **Louis Vuitton** is a fascinating example of contemporary movement design. Its architecture, fully visible, is flawless. I like the play on fullness and void, with components that seem to float freely yet are so beautifully finished in a watch worthy of the Geneva Seal.



“There's something almost secretive about the Vacheron Constantin Overseas.”

KEN KESSLER

30. SEAN LI

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR,
BLACKBIRD WATCH
MANUAL

I would have to give the nod to the **Vacheron Constantin Traditionnelle Twin Beat Perpetual Calendar**. This watch gives amateurs of this particular complication a very tangible benefit, along with being an encapsulation of the Maison's history with its modern technical abilities, all while ascribing to the Geneva Seal's high standards.

31. MING LIU

JOURNALIST; V.F. ON TIME
CONTRIBUTOR

Louis Vuitton's Tambour Curve Flying Tourbillon, stamped with the Poinçon de Genève, is chunky, bulky and unapologetically so. I love this flying tourbillon and its boundary-pushing materials: titanium and marbled CarboStratum, where layers of carbon sheets are randomly fused together. The diamond version is all the more fantastic, accentuating the curved case and lugs that flow seamlessly into one. Haute Horlogerie... but make it fashion.

32. TRACEY LLEWELYN

EDITOR, TELEGRAPH TIME;
V.F. ON TIME CONTRIBUTOR

For many reasons, I adore the **Louis Vuitton Tambour Curve Flying Tourbillon**, which was released in early 2020. Signalling a watchmaking milestone for Louis



Vuitton, the watch is a powerful reminder of the awesome potential contained within La Fabrique du Temps manufacture. From the perfect fit of the streamlined 46mm carbon-fibre-capped titanium case and fully integrated strap to the open-worked movement, every component has been designed and executed with one purpose in mind: Poinçon de Genève certification.

33. RICHARD LOPEZ

SENIOR SPECIALIST
& HEAD OF ONLINE
SALES, SOTHEBY'S

My favourite watch stamped with the Geneva Seal is the **Patek Philippe Ref. 3941J** with an exhibition case back. Its 36mm case housed a perpetual calendar complication and an automatic function, and the marriage of design and craftsmanship in such a small case led to the popularity of perpetual calendars. Produced from 1985 to 1990, 3941s are exceptionally rare and coveted.

34. TAKESHI MATSUYAMA

EDITOR;
WATCHMAKING
HISTORIAN

My favourite Geneva Seal watch is the **Chopard L.U.C Full Strike**, which marks the 20th anniversary of Chopard manufacture with its first ever minute repeater. This watch is very high quality and has an excellent finish. I consider it a milestone in watchmaking.



“I love the boundary-pushing materials of Louis Vuitton's Flying Tourbillon.”

MING LIU

35. JEAN PAUL MENUCCI

**LEATHER CRAFTSMAN & STRAP MAKER**One of the watches that I love to wear most is the **Patek Philippe****Nautilus 5711** in steel, first edition with the Geneva hallmark and movement. The satin and polished steel catch the light beautifully. It is a comfortable watch with a bracelet that adheres perfectly to my wrist. I always find it hard to take off, and after so many years I have realised that it is my watch, the only one that identifies me.

36. ANDERS MODIG

**JOURNALIST & PHOTOGRAPHER; Y.F. ON TIME CONTRIBUTOR**The **Vacheron Constantin****Traditionnelle Twin Beat Perpetual Calendar** shows that the Geneva Seal is as relevant as ever. Meticulously finished parts in a contemporary design with extreme legibility, translucent discs and bare wheels, packaged in an ultra-luxurious yet discreet platinum case. Add to that 65 days of power reserve—what's not to love?

37. BILL PRINCE

**JOURNALIST; Y.F. ON TIME CONTRIBUTOR**Out-of-the-box novelties such as this patent-pending dual-frequency QP would normally be limited edition, and yet with the **Vacheron****"The Ref. 5970 combines precision with perfect proportions and aesthetics."****AHMED RAHMAN****Constantin Traditionnelle Twin Beat Perpetual Calendar**, the marvels are available to all. Capable of running in "sleep mode" for 65 days, or a more plausible 96 hours in "active" mode, it's a contemporary classic and also—rightfully—dazzling to look at.

38. STEPHEN PULVIRENT

**MANAGING EDITOR & DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, HODINKEE**I would choose the **Vacheron Constantin****Traditionnelle Manual-Winding Ref. 82172/000R-9888** 38mm in pink gold with guilloché dial. When it comes to Poinçon de Genève watches, Vacheron Constantin is the master. A time-only Traditionnelle was the first truly exceptional watch I wore for a proper review, and this is my favourite version in the current catalogue. It's basically perfect.

39. AHMED RAHMAN

**WATCH COLLECTOR**

My all-time favourite watch with the Poinçon de Genève would have to be the manual

winding **Patek Philippe Perpetual Calendar Chronograph Ref. 5970**. The watch houses a modified version of the legendary Lemanica Cal. 2310 (CH27-70Q in Patek reference) and combines reliability, durability and precision with perfect proportions and aesthetics. No wonder this watch has stood the test of time and proudly borne the Geneva Seal during its lifetime. Sadly the Patek Philippe 5970 was discontinued in 2010, but it is considered by collectors and enthusiasts to be a masterpiece in the hallowed halls of horological fame.

40. RACHEL REEVES

**EDITOR, THE HOROLOGICAL JOURNAL**

It's a pleasure to see a beautiful, ethically

sourced watch like **Chopard's L.U.C Full Strike** in certified Fairmined ethical rose gold. Chopard's first minute repeater, it is also apparently

the world's only manually wound minute repeater with gongs and sapphires forming a single monobloc in its striking system.

41. GIANFRANCO RITSCHEL

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & OWNER, TIME TO TRAIN SARL**My pick would have to be the **Vacheron****Constantin Traditionnelle Twin Beat Perpetual Calendar Ref. 3200T/000P-B578**. What a great idea to prove how we can still innovate while remaining in traditional watchmaking. When this watch is not being worn, its calibre can be slowed down in order to guarantee an extended power reserve of at least 65 days.

42. WILLIAM ROHR

**FOUNDER, MASSENA LAB**My choice is the **Roger Dubuis Hommage H40 Perpetual Retrograde****Chronograph**. When Roger Dubuis left Patek Philippe in the 1980s and went on to establish his own watch company in the 1990s, he decided to create watches that were as complicated and beautiful as the ones he had made at his former employer. The Hommage Perpetual Retrograde Chronograph, with its unique hands that jump up and down, was his signature piece. The watch was so striking that it was immediately noticed by collectors. Twenty-five years later, it remains an inimitable and stylish timepiece.**"When it comes to Poinçon de Genève watches, Vacheron Constantin is the master."****STEPHEN PULVIRENT****"Chopard's skeletonisation shows the unbelievable finishing of the movement."****ABDUL HAMIED SEDDIQI**

43. PIERRE SALANITRO

**CEO, SALANITRO**The **Patrimony Bi-Retrograde** by **Vacheron Constantin**

expresses, in my opinion, the essence of the hallmark of Geneva: discretion and perfection. First, because its apparent simplicity hides an undeniable mechanical complexity. It houses two of the most useful complications, embodied by two retrograde indications: the day of the week and the date. The instantaneous return of its hands in less than 1/10th of a second is a real technical challenge. Also because of the level of its finishes, it is part of a true philosophy of watchmaking craftsmanship. Excellence is inside. Discreet. Refined. Behind its assumed minimalism lies a concern for every detail. The balance is absolute for this sober, classic and timeless timepiece.

44. DARYN SCHNIFFER

**CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL WATCH DIVISION, SOTHEBY'S**A unique **Patek****Philippe** wristwatch **No. 922902** made for Henry Graves Jr. is my favourite Geneva Seal watch. As with all the timepieces that were made for Graves, this piece had to be a precision watch. The result was an observatory-quality movement stamped twice with the Geneva Seal. The exceptional oversized platinum curved rectangular case was unique and an architectural marvel.

PAUL SCHIENHOFFER (WEMPE)

45. ABDUL HAMIED SEDDIQI

**VICE-CHAIRMAN, SEDDIQI HOLDING**One of my favourite Geneva Seal watches is the **L.U.C Full Strike**by **Chopard**. The standout feature, needless to say, is the beauty of the watch; the skeletonisation shows the unbelievable finishing of the movement, complemented by remarkable strike on sapphire gongs.

46. DANIEL SOMLO

**DIRECTOR, SOMLO LONDON**

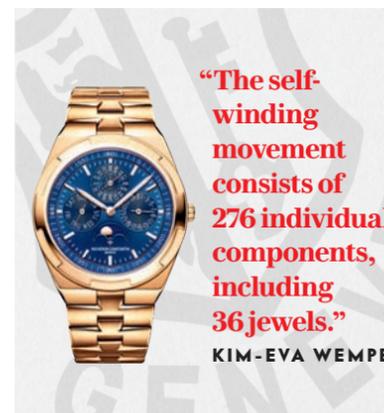
Considering its history with the Geneva Seal, it would be a crime not to

choose a **Patek Philippe**. I love the **Ref. 3445** for its perfect proportions and technical brilliance. The minimalist and intuitive layout of the dial was combined with a complex yet beautiful movement. It was one of their most successful watches.

47. JIAXIAN SU

**COLLECTOR & FOUNDER, SJXWATCHES.COM****Patek Philippe** no longer relies on the Geneva Seal, but it wasonce its best-known ambassador. A watch that exemplifies a time and place—late 20th-century watchmaking in Geneva—is the **Ref. 5029** minute repeater. Made to mark the 1997 opening of a new Patek factory in a suburb of the city, it is a graceful watch that embodies the defining aesthetic of the brand in that period.

48. TOBY SUTTON

**CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND**I choose the **Patek****Philippe Nautilus** pre-2010, as it defines a luxury sports watch. The iconic porthole design with integrated bracelet gives the watch a sporty aesthetic, combined with a movement that meets the standards set by the Poinçon de Genève.**"The self-winding movement consists of 276 individual components, including 36 jewels."****KIM-EVA WEMPE**

49. KIM-EVA WEMPE

**OWNER & MANAGING PARTNER, WEMPE**

My favourite Geneva Seal watch is the

Vacheron Constantin Overseas Perpetual Calendar Ultra-Thin in rose gold. This wristwatch is in line with the zeitgeist due to special features like the transparent blue lacquered dial with a satin-finished sunburst decoration. The Overseas is a luxury watch that is suitable for everyday use; thanks to its quick-change system, you can exchange the gold bracelet for an alligator-skin strap or a natural rubber strap in no time. Its ultra-thin case represents a particular challenge for watchmakers because the complication mechanisms must be fitted into a tiny space. The self-winding manufacture movement consists of 276 individual components, including 36 jewels for the bearings of the gear train.

50. JESSICA YU

**FOUNDER, HANTANG CULTURE**My pick is the **Vacheron****Constantin Traditionnelle Self-Winding Ultra-Thin Skeleton**. I love its all-round subtle balance: unisex style, western aesthetic tinged with a sense of refined eastern totem, toughness in metal, and diamond softened by delicate open-work. What's more, its stunning decorative details reveal the mechanical beauty, which is the real heart of the piece. ■